

BEACON

514th Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve, McGuire AFB, NJ

Gathered group gets goodbye hugs

*Aerial port members depart
on a 120-day AEF deployment*

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BEACON

February 2005

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The deadline for submitting BEACON articles is the first day of the month for publication in next month's issue. Submit the article on disk in Microsoft Word, and include your name and phone number. Articles can also be submitted via e-mail to: 514amw.pa@mcguire.af.mil. Call (609) 754-3487 for more information.

Wing commander puts member's needs first

The holiday season is officially over and the New Year is well underway. With our major inspections of 2004 and 2005 behind us, the focus this year is on **YOU**, the Reserve Airman. My goal this year is to provide you with as much stability and predictability about your training schedule as I possibly can, so you can adequately plan your year to balance work and personal needs with the needs of the wing.

As you know, change is taking place on McGuire Air Force Base to improve base security, your work environment, and reservists' quality of life. Soon the newly renovated main gate will open, the joint C-17 operations/maintenance building and hangar will be ready for occupancy, the civil engineering squadron along with services squadron and airlift control flight personnel will have a new home, and in Building 2217, the state-of-the-art wing headquarters conference room will be up and running! These and many more construction projects are in the works for this coming year. I want all of our civilians, air reserve technicians, and reservists to have a work environment that is commensurate with the quality of work they do. Therefore, you will see steady progress this year in the improvement of your work environment.

Operationally, since December we have successfully deployed more than 70 wing members in support of our Air Expeditionary Force 9/10 commitment. Our operations group is not only working hard to complete

the conversion to the C-17, but filling vital positions in the Northeast Tanker Task Force. Our maintenance group is preparing for a

Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Team inspection this month and our mission support group has revamped its customer service operations to better fit your needs.

Since we have no major inspections or visits ahead of us this year, I ask that all of my commanders and supervisors look for ways to improve in areas that affect your people. For example, let's work on the timeliness of submitting security clearance packages, awards and decorations and officer and enlisted performance reports. I also want a significant decrease in government travel card account delinquencies and getting our people fit to fight so they can be fit for life! By concentrating on these small items, we can truly say we are taking care of our people, ourselves and each other.

Finally, keep thinking about safety! I can ill-afford to lose one of you fantastic people to injury or death, particularly if it is caused by an individual's careless disregard for your or your teammates' personal safety. Therefore, use your operational risk management training to ensure that you are accomplishing your tasks in a safe manner. Let's make 2006 a safe and productive year!



Enlisted and officer clubs combine

By Senior Airman Ashley DiFalco
305 AMW Public Affairs

The 305th Services Squadron officially combined the enlisted and officer clubs with the grand reopenings of Tommy B's at the McGuire Collocated Club Jan. 20.

"The services squadron unlike any other squadron on base, is charged to operate many of its activities as businesses," said Maj. Robert Snodgrass, 305th SVS commander. "The initiative to collocate the clubs was designed to improve the benefits offered to club members, to be more efficient and to reduce unnecessary expenses with the goal of improving the club's bottomline.

"Our efforts have created a more efficient multi-use facility, while not only opening up an officer's lounge, but positively affecting the character of the existing Wright Brothers Cafe," he added.

Wright Bros. Cafe will continue its normal hours of operation, Monday through

Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tommy B's will operate every Friday evening beginning at 3:30 p.m. Pudgy's Sports Bar is an all-ranks eatery Monday through Friday until 2 p.m. To maintain the integrity of the enlisted club lounge, officers will no be allowed in Pudgy's after 2 p.m. during the weekdays, and all day Saturday or Sunday. Officer patrons may use Tommy B's/Wright Bros. Cafe area from which to order from the same sports bar menu served at Pudgy's.

According to Major Snodgrass, a project is in the works to initiate an extensive remodeling of Pudgy's enlisted lounge. The services squadron recently submitted a request for funding a \$200,000 upgrade project, which includes a new bar, carpeting, fresh paint and a dance floor.

Reserve members not already a club member are welcome to join. Annual membership dues are \$7 for enlisted and \$9 for officers. Applications are available at the Collocated Club cashier's cage.

PROMOTIONS

The following 514th Air Mobility Wing members were recently promoted.

Airman First Class

Danielle Grant, 514th AMDS
Daniel P. Lahart, Jr., 514th CES
Evelyn M. Thomas, 514th MSG

Senior Airman

Kushtrim Alidema, 514th MSG
Thalha N. Choudhury, 732nd AS
Alicia O. Evangelist, 514th ASTS
Christopher Fitzgerald, 514th CES
Barbara J. Ford, 514th MSG
Dimitri O. Gunter, 514th MSS
Elizabeth L. Harling, 35th APS
Carmel J. Lumia, 514th CES
Gregory D. Morris, 714th AMXS
Christina A. Ortiz, 514th AMDS
Douglas J. Rolwood, 35th APS
Vanessa M. Shaw, 35th APS
Jeffrey E. Sherman, 514th SFS
Japheth M. Simpson, 514th CES
Nelson A. Villatoro, 514th MSG

Staff Sergeant

Marcus P. Calliste, 35th APS
Tespha M. Campbell, 722nd ASTS
Eric P. Chapman, 35th APS
Hector R. Corrales, 514th ASTS
Glenn M. Davies, 714th AMXS
James W. Duncan, 714th AMXS
Maxy P. Escalante, 514th AMDS
Anthony Festa, 714th AMXS
Raymond S. Godas, 514th CS
Kevin R. Hyde, 514th MSG
Gwendel V. Lacey, 514th MSS

Peter Mendoza Jr., 514th MXS
Thomas J. Mikan Jr., 714th AMXS
James R. Rich III, 514th CES
Lashanda C. Roberts, 35th APS
Cornelius L. Service, 514th MSG
Eric L. Shuemate, 714th AMXS
Eric C. Standard, 714th AMXS
John I. Tulloch, 514th CS
Patrice E. Whaley, 514th AMDS

Technical Sergeant

Cornelius Jackson IV, 714th AMXS
Deborah L. Jones, 514th AMDS
Thomas F. Lemere, 514th AMXS
Vincent O. Majors, 514th CS
Sean L. McClendon, 732nd AS
Craig D. Reck, 76th ARS
Vincent J. Salazar, 35th APS
Natasha J. Vanreil, 722nd CS
Sean A. Vickerie, 514th AMDS
Jason A. Vion, 514th OSS

Master Sergeant

Donald L. Brickner, 514th AMXS
Sandra J. Buffalow, 88th APS
Tonja T. Ellison, 514th AMDS
Lucille Hudson, 35th APS
Luisita Vega, 514th AMDS

Senior Master Sergeant

Tracey A. Murphy, 514th MSS
David A. Nevius, 514th ASTS
James R. St.Cyr, 514th ALCF

Chief Master Sergeant

Anita Y. Freeman, 88th APS
Linda L. Menser, 514th MOF

BRIEFS

Main gate reopens

The McGuire Main Gate reopened Feb. 1, after closing for more than a year for extensive renovations. The gate now serves as the 24-hour gate and the collocated entry screening facility will carry on all functions of the former visitor control center and also issue vehicle decals.

The Arnold Gate's new hours of operations are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., with no right turn entrance from Wrightstown Cookstown road during peak morning traffic from 6 to 8 a.m.

Other changes include the traffic signal at Arnold Avenue and Tuskegee Airman Boulevard will become operational and the Lancaster gate will close.

Reserve numbers dwindle

Air Force Reserve Command will have a smaller force in 2006.

The 2006 Defense Appropriations Act signed by President George W. Bush Dec. 30 funds an end-strength of 74,000 reservists. That's 2,100 fewer reservists compared to the 2005 end-strength of 76,100.

The new legislation also approves 9,852 full-time air reserve technicians and 2,290 full-time Air Guard and Reserve reservists.

The defense bill covers a 3.1 percent military pay raise for active and reserve forces.

AFRC receives about \$1.29 billion for its reserve personnel appropriation and about \$2.46 billion in operation and maintenance funds to run the command. (AFRC News Service)

VIBES:

Where and with whom would you spend your dream vacation? How long would you stay?



SSgt. Justo J. Espinosa
514th SVS

The perfect vacation would be in the Virgin Islands alone. I can relax on the beach by myself enjoying a true vacation.



A1C Ricklin B. Harmening
714th AMXS

I would spend my dream vacation with my family in Hawaii. I would stay until I lost track of the days.



Capt. Hunter Shelden
78th ARS

My dream vacation would be three months with my wife and a large RV. Our route of travel would take us from our home in Utah to the southern tip of Chile, with plenty of stops along the way.



TSgt. Rosa Brooks
514th AES

I would go to Jamaica with my man and enjoy the sun and sand and just relax. I would stay for three weeks.



A1C Thalha Choudhury
732nd AS

My dream vacation is to spend one to two weeks in Las Vegas with my closest friends checking out the casinos that offer body treatment spas and free dinners.

514th honors best of 2005

Annual award banquet celebrates the accomplishments of deserving members

By Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries
514 AMW Public Affairs



Patricia Porter
Civilian of the Year Category I
514th MSS



SrA George Teamoh
Airman of the Year
514th SFS



MSgt. Mary Jane Flammer
First Sergeant of the Year
514th MOF



Chris Motta
Civilian of the Year Category II
514th CS



SMSgt. Rachelle Jones
Senior NCO of the Year
514th ASTS



Capt. Mike Gibbs
Company grade officer of the Year
514th SFS

Sixty-eight wing members were singled out for their superior performance during 2005 at the 514th Air Mobility Wing Annual Awards Banquet held Jan. 7 at the McGuire Enlisted Club.

Winners of this 514th First Sergeants Council-sponsored event are: **Patricia Porter**, 514th Mission Support Squadron, GS-1 through GS-8; **Chris Motta**, 514th Communication Squadron, GS-9 through GS-12; **Capt. Mike Gibbs**, 514th Security Force Squadron, company grade officer of the year; **Senior Airman George Teamoh**, 514th SFS, airman of the year; ***Staff Sgt. Melissa Mefferd**, 514th CS, NCO of the year; **Senior Master Sgt. Rachelle Jones**, 514th Aerospace Staging Squadron, SNCO of the year; and **Master Sgt. Mary Jane Flammer**, 514th Maintenance Operations Flight, first sergeant of the year.

In addition to honoring the nominees for the annual awards, for the first time since this award's inception in 2001, two wing members were selected as recipients of the Joseph A. McNeil Award.

Mrs. Mary Vanderwilt, director of the 514th Family Support and **Master Sgt. Chryl Ruff**, a health service management assistant assigned to the 514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, were each presented with an engraved solid crystal in the shape of a flame symbolizing this honor. Maj. Gen. Joseph A. McNeil, retired, in whose name the award was named, attended the event to personally make the presentations.

In addition to his 39 years of military service and civil service with the Federal Aviation Administration, the general was a key contributor to the civil rights movement in 1960 when he and three other African-American friends insisted on being served at an F.W. Woolworth whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C. The protest sparked sit-ins all over the segregated South and is considered a major event in the nation's civil rights movement. General McNeil's life example of citizenship and service to others is part of the criteria selection for the award is based upon.

Another evening highlight was the announcement of Senior Airmen Thomas Robleto, 714th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Jessica Osmer, 78th Air Refueling Squadron; and Roman Kernitski, 88th Aerial Port Squadron as recipients of the Kevin White Scholarship.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. John White, former 514th command chief master sergeant and father of Senior Airman Kevin White, attended the festivities and presented the scholarship winners with a check for \$1,000 each. The scholarship fund was established by the 514th AMW Career Advisors to supplement educational costs to fellow wing Airmen in honor of Airman White, a former 514th AMW member and son of Chief White, who died in 2003.

The winners from all seven annual award categories move to the next level for a chance to be named Team McGuire 2005 winner of the year. Participants will compete against nominees from the 305th Air Mobility Wing and the 108th Air Refueling Wing Feb. 24 at the McGuire Awards Banquet held at the McGuire Co-located Club.

***Staff Sgt. Melissa Mefferd** was not available for a photograph due to previous commitments.

USAF Photos by Kenn Mann

Up close and personal

Chief gives take on African-American History

Chief Master Sgt. Milton Newton has served more than 36 years in the military and more than 40 in civil service. As superintendent of the 514th Communication Squadron, the chief has been a member of the 514th Air Mobility Wing since October 1985. Here he gives his insight to the significance of February's observance of African-American History Month.

Q: When did the observance of African-American History Month start to have a significance in your life?

My military service predates the start of African-American History Month. I joined the military in 1964. The month-long observance of African-American history began in 1976. I remember joining the Army and going to school at Fort Gordon, Ga., and seeing two different United Service Organizations (USOs); one for whites and one for blacks. Also, when I got off the train station in Augusta Ga., I saw they had separate facilities for blacks and whites.

Coming from Philadelphia I never saw that before. So that was my first shock about how people looked at each other. In Philadelphia I went to an integrated high school and no separate facilities were around. (It was) my first trip down South and that's the first thing I ran into.

I can safely say before I got out of the Army three years later, those things had changed. Fort Bragg was my last duty station and facilities were no longer segregated. Due to Martin Luther King and other leaders of that time who brought awareness to the country of separate but equal, within those three years you could see how things were changing.

Q: What prominent figures come to mind when you think about black history?

Educator, Booker T. Washington, civil rights activists, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and Rosa Parks and inventor, Dr. George Washington Carver; those people are read about in school today, but I looked up to the people in my generation that influenced me.

While, stationed in Korea in 1964 I had the honor of seeing Lt. Gen. Benjamin Davis Jr. He was the first-ever black three-star Air Force officer. At the time I saw him he was deputy commander United Nations, Korean Forces. You didn't see that many black officers. That influenced me to stay in the military. I guess the biggest influence after that was during the 1970s.

I met then, Capt. Lloyd Newton (no relation) who flew with the Thunderbirds (the Air Force premier aerial demonstration team.) Captain Newton has since retired as a four-star general.

On a closer level, my grandmother, mom and pops all had an influence on me. The black figure heads I looked up to include the older guys in my neighborhood; my buddies' fathers. I also looked at how my father worked in construction. He inspired me to do other things because he said the work he did was hard.

Q: Who do you feel is not as well known as Rev. King or Rosa Parks for the works they have done?

Cecil B. Moore, President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Philadelphia, Pa., for the marches he did to get a predominantly white private school to open up for underprivileged kids in Philadelphia.

Another person is the Rev. Leon Sullivan — founder of Opportunities and Industrialization Center, Philadelphia. This initiative founded training programs to help African-Americans gain the skills needed to get the jobs they were protesting for. OIC programs are now found nationwide. Sullivan received the Presidential Medal of Freedom by former President George Bush in 1992 for his efforts.



Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries

Chief Master Sgt. Milton T. Newton a 36-year veteran and member of the 514th Communication Squadron reveals what African-American History Month means to him.

Q: Has the civil rights message of working for fairness and equality been lost?

I think a lot of younger people today are so much into themselves that they tend to lose focus. We still have things to accomplish. One of those things was touched on in an article from Tony Dungy, head coach of the Indianapolis Colts. He wrote "I want to be looked upon as a coach first, not an African-American coach."

King also referred to this in his "I Have a Dream" speech given Aug. 28, 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. King said, "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

I would say the same thing in any profession you are in. When you achieve your goals look upon yourself as CEO of the Company and not the African-American CEO.

Q: How do you plan to observe Black History Month this year?

There are lots of films on Public Broadcast Station. I will call my kids and tell them to look at the films with their kids. Let them see where we were 40-50 years ago. People did a lot to get this country to open up. As a new generation they need to keep striving to keep that going. I want them to impart the message to do good things not only for African-Americans, but for everyone in general.

Q: As an American of African descent, what words of wisdom do you impart to the new generation of military members?

By applying yourself you can achieve your goals. And set your goals high. As long as you are striving for a goal at least you are moving forward. Don't settle or become complacent. Aim high just like the Air Force Motto. Aim High.



Photos by Denise Gould

Senior Airman Christopher Headley of 88th Aerial Port Squadron and wife, Lorraine, prepare for a 120-day deployment Jan. 23 as Mary Vanderwilt, director of the 514th Family Support gives them resources to cope with their separation. Airman Headley was one of 15 aerial porters from the 35th and 88th APS departing for Bagram, Afghanistan.

Final contingent departs for AEF support

By Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries
514 AMW Public Affairs

For some it would be their first time out while others are two-time, plus veterans. All had the same concerns about separation and safety, but pushed those concerns aside to savor their last hours with family and friends.

Jan. 23, more than 14 aerial port members assigned to the 35th and 88th Aerial Port Squadrons here departed for a 120-day deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

The group was the last component of more than 70 514th Air Mobility Wing members to deploy in support of Air Expeditionary Force 9/10.

Prior to leaving, the group gathered at the combined squadron building for a farewell luncheon with family, friends and co-workers.

Many voiced their eagerness to begin the deployment.

"I'm anticipating getting the job done," said Staff Sgt. Lance Heffington of the 88th APS. The sergeant clarified that getting the job done meant everything from departing, arriving and making the transition in the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, the aerial porter's deployed unit.

The sergeant has good reason to get this assignment behind him. Upon returning he expects to be greeted not only by his

finance but also by their newborn son whose birth date is predicted to fall shortly before his return date.

Although currently not expecting any more children, Staff Sgt. Edwin Tirado and wife, Yvette, are relieved this deployment will be shorter than the first time they were separated. As parents of three girls, Sergeant Tirado said during his first deployment to Iraq in 2002 when he was in the Army serving as security in direct combat support, the separation was hard on his wife.

"This time the anxiety is less and we're a lot more prepared," said the Orange County corrections officer from Brooklyn, N.Y.

Unlike her ex-Army co-worker, Master Sgt. Leonda Aponte of the 35th APS said this is her first overseas deployment.

"Everybody has to experience this," said the air terminal operations center superintendent. "Not that I want to go to war, but how are you going to train your troops to react (in a deployed environment) when



Senior Airman Keith Linkner aerial port technician reads his bag for transport Jan. 23 prior to boarding the bus for the airport; the first leg of his trip to Afghanistan. COVER PHOTO: A family friend, Staff Sgt. Benny Almodovar receives a goodbye hug from Kaitlyn, daughter of Staff Sgt. Edwin Tirado. Both sergeants are assigned to the 88th APS.

you've never been there," she said.

Sergeant Aponte's husband, Technical Sgt. Richard Aponte is assigned to the 88th APS and understands the work his spouse is about to perform.

"I have already gone. She's never done anything and wanted this opportunity," he said. "I have the easy part," he said referring to his sole care of their two daughters during his wife's absence.

The group joined other 514th AMW aerial porters at Bagram AB where they will run the entire aerial port operations.

2006

Employer Appreciation Day

Nominate your civilian boss to attend June 17.
Deadline for nominations is May 1.

Employer: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Other:

(Circle one)

Last name:

First name:

Address to mail invite: _____ (No zip = No invite)

Phone* Daytime () _____ Evening () _____ Fax () _____

Job Title: _____ **Company:** _____

Show your employer the mission of the 514th, the Air Force Reserve and your role in the wing.

Schedule of events will be in the information mailed to you and your employer.

Day will include:

- Continental breakfast
- Welcome by the wing commander
- Static displays of aircraft and hands-on displays from units throughout the wing
- Orientation flight in the KC-10 or C-17
- Lunch
- Optional tour of your workplace

Sponsoring reservist: Rank: _____ Unit: _____

Last name:

First name:

Daytime phone: () _____ Evening phone: () _____

Where to mail info to you: _____ (No zip = No invite)

An opportunity to observe an aerial refueling mission will be offered to employers. Space is limited so get your nomination in by the May 1 deadline. Nominations are intended for employers **who have not already flown** with the 514th Air Mobility Wing. Flights are **not** for family members or friends. The flight is pending approval by higher headquarters and is subject to cancellation for weather or operational reasons. Please ensure your employer understands this nomination is not a guarantee of a seat on the flight.

Return this form to 514th AMW/PA, 2217 W. Arnold Ave., McGuire AFB, N.J. 08641; fax number is (609) 754-5066; or e-mail the required information about you and your employer to 514AMW.PA@mcguire.af.mil.

** Information is subject to protection under the provision of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S. Code, 552a)*

Position-vacancy promotions change

WASHINGTON - Air Force Reserve Command is changing the way it determines the number of early officer promotions, known as position-vacancy promotions.

"Starting with the February 2006 Air Force Reserve Major Promotion Selection Board, we will link position-vacancy promotion quotas to mandatory promotion board quotas," said Col. Shaun Kelleher, chief of the directorate of personnel's force management policy division in the Office of Air Force Reserve. "But, PV promotions will still not be at the expense of the mandatory board promotions."

To obtain the number of position-vacancy promotions, the Air Force Reserve will take a percentage of its mandatory board quotas. For lieutenant colonel it will be 20 percent of the mandatory board quota, and for major 30 percent.

"For the first time, we will know how many position-vacancy promotions will be available before a promotion board convenes and be able to predict the number of PV promotions in the future," Colo-

nel Kelleher said.

In the past, the Air Force Reserve applied a percentage to the number of position-vacancy nominations submitted to determine how many people were promoted. There was no way to predict the number of officers submitted for PV consideration, so there was no way to predict the number of resulting PV promotions until the board actually convened.

Analysis shows the number of officers submitted for position-vacancy promotion consideration increased almost 70 percent in the past five years. For promotion to major, the number grew from 107 nominated to almost 180. For promotion to lieutenant colonel, the number climbed from 273 to more than 450.

As a result, the number of officers promoted early to major and lieutenant colonel increased, with no means to accurately predict the number of position-vacancy promotions in the future. This created a major obstacle in the promotion-planning process.

Under the new policy, the number of

position-vacancy promotions will decrease and become more predictable.

In 2005, the Air Force Reserve selected 107 officers for PV promotion to major. If the new formula had been applied, the number selected would have been 30 percent of 290 or 87.

Last year 182 were picked for PV promotion to lieutenant colonel. The new formula would have yielded 20 percent of 486 or 98 selectees.

"Position-vacancy promotions are to be used for 'exceptionally well qualified' individuals," Colonel Kelleher said. "With this change, commanders will have to look closer at those being nominated and only forward their truly best qualified officers."

Although there are no position-vacancy promotions to colonel, the early promotions to major and lieutenant colonel created larger year groups eligible for promotion to colonel. These larger year groups increased the number of officers promoted, which resulted in more colonel selectees than colonel positions available.

AFRC News Service

Reservists benefit from 2006 defense authorization act

WASHINGTON - People serving in the Air Force Reserve Command and other reserve components could receive new or enhanced benefits this year.

The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act lets the Department of Defense offer reservists a variety of benefits more on par with their active-duty counterparts, said Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation. President George W. Bush signed the defense bill Jan. 6.

One big change is a provision that shortens the duty time before reservists qualify for the full housing allowance. People called to active duty for non-contingency operations for more than 30 days will now get the full allowance, just as active-duty troops do. In the past, reservists serving in non-contingencies had to be called to active duty for at least 140 days.

For reservists who experience pay cuts when called to active

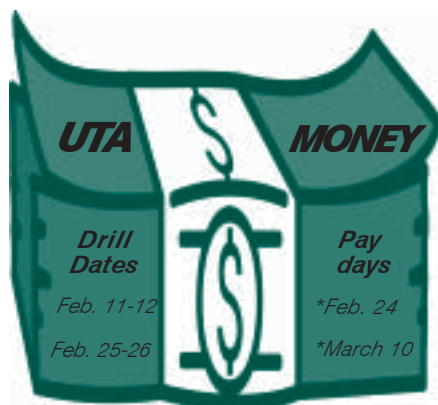
duty, a new provision for income replacement will help reduce the strain military service places on the family, Mr. Witschonke said.

The income-replacement program won't be instituted for six months, in accordance with the law. At that time, specific guidelines and qualifications will be issued, he said. This authority will end in December 2008.

The 2006 authorization act also permits increases in recruiting bonuses for reservists. People could get accession and affiliation bonuses of up to \$20,000 to enlist in the Selected Reserve. Officers could see an increase from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for initial service in the Selected Reserve.

More information about pay and benefits is posted on the DOD's military compensation Web site at www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/

AFRC News Service from American Forces Press Service



*Pay dates are subject to change. For information, contact your unit pay monitor.

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